

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows. On page 1, immediately after the title of the invention and before the first paragraph, please insert the following new paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[001] This is a continuation application of co-pending parent application having U.S. Serial No. 09/476,159, filed December 30, 1999, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS

1-85. (Canceled)

86. (Original) An expandable strut assembly for moving a filter element between a collapsed and expanded position for capturing embolic debris released into a blood vessel of a patient, comprising:

    a first set of struts, each strut having a first and second end;

    a second set of struts, each strut having a first and second end; and

    a deployment member movable between a collapsed position and an expanded position, wherein each of the first ends of the first and second sets of struts are attached to the deployment member at different locations along the deployment member.

87. (Original) The expandable strut assembly of claim 86 wherein the deployment member is self-expanding.